

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Continued Expansion of Schools Participating in AdvanceKentucky

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.007, KRS 158.622, KRS 158.847, KRS 158.848, KRS 158.849, 704 KAR 3:510

History/Background:

Existing Policy. In the summer of 2007, the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) awarded Kentucky \$13.2 million as one of six states to create nonprofit enterprises for expanding participation and success in Advanced Placement* courses in Mathematics, Science and English. NMSI is a national non-profit organization funded by ExxonMobil, Dell and the Gates Foundation. The Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC) agreed to assume responsibility for creating and operating the nonprofit program, called AdvanceKentucky, to implement Kentucky's grant. Joanne Lang, Executive Vice President of KSTC, heads AdvanceKentucky. The Kentucky Department of Education is a partner, along with support from the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Partnership for Successful Schools.

In fall 2008, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Kentucky Department of Education the Advanced Placement Incentive Program (APIP) grant. Like the NMSI grant, this grant focuses on increasing participation and qualifying scores (3 or higher on the exam) in Advanced Placement courses for mathematics, science and English. Schools with at least a 40% free and reduced lunch count were targeted. From this grant, Kentucky will receive approximately \$2 million over the three-year life of the grant, with required matching from NMSI funding. Additionally, KDE has committed \$500,000 for the 2011-12 school year to expansion of Advanced Placement particularly to include underrepresented students through open enrollment.

Currently, AdvanceKentucky is working in 44 Kentucky schools using the NMSI Elements of Success. This proven model encourages more students to take AP classes, more time spent on content learning for students through weekend or after school study sessions, extensive AP and Pre-AP teacher training, and rewarding students, teachers and administrators for success on AP math, science and English exams. At the April Kentucky Board of Education meeting up to twenty (20) new schools will be named. Participation is voluntary.

After two years in AdvanceKentucky, Cohort 1 (12 high schools) realized a two-year increase of 162% in AP mathematics, science and English qualifying scores, including an 825% increase in AP mathematics, science and English qualifying scores earned by minorities. After one year in AdvanceKentucky, Cohort 2 (16 high schools) realized a one-year increase of 62% in AP mathematics, science and English qualifying scores, including a 104% increase in AP mathematics, science and English qualifying scores earned by minorities. **Attachment A** has more information about participation.

As a result, more students in Kentucky are being exposed to and realizing success in college-level course curriculum, have the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school at little to no cost, and are better prepared for success in college. The schools receiving the grant money have seen an increase in AP enrollment for the current school year and are projecting a very significant growth for the 2011-2012 school year.

** Advanced Placement Program, AP, and Pre-AP are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board, which was not involved in the production of this product.*

Impact on Getting to Proficiency

Participation in this type of program increases students' level of college and career readiness.

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Commissioner of Education

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